

The Ontario Black History Society (OBHS) Presents

International Emancipation Day Commemoration

*An event marking the August 1, 1834
abolition of slavery throughout the British Empire
in conjunction with the
United Nations International Year to Commemorate
the Struggle Against Slavery and its Abolition
and*

The 200th Anniversary of Haiti's Independence

5:30 pm, Tuesday, August 3, 2004

Ontario Provincial Parliament Building
2nd Floor Reception Room, West Wing
Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

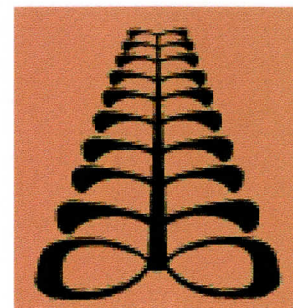
Keynote Speaker: Nyahuma Obika

*President, Caribbean Historical Society of Trinidad and Tobago
Initiator of the worldwide revival of International Emancipation Day*

"The day we celebrate is preeminently the colored man's day. Whosoever else may forget or slight the claims of this day, it can never be other to us than memorable and glorious."

—Frederick Douglass, at celebration of Emancipation Day on August 1, 1880

On August 1, 1834, the British Empire abolished chattel slavery within all of its colonies. At that time the British Empire spanned several continents and encompassed parts of the Caribbean, Africa, Canada, India, China, Australia, and South America as far as the tip of Argentina. This historic action fueled abolition movements worldwide and led to the subsequent end of slavery in Europe, the Caribbean colonies, the United States, and South America. Abolitionist Frederick Douglass spoke of this action's significance: "The downfall of slavery under British power meant the downfall of Negro slavery everywhere." Continued Douglass, "Outside the British Empire no other nation was in a position to feel it so much as we [the United States]. The stimulus it gave to the American anti-slavery movement was immediate, pronounced and powerful." Historically, people of African descent celebrated their freedom and solidarity as Emancipation Day on August 1st. Come learn more about this compelling history and the international initiative to revive the celebration of Emancipation Day among Black people around the world.



**Ghanaian Adinkra
symbol, AYA, meaning
independence**

Free Admission • Refreshments Served

**For more information, visit <http://www.blackhistorysociety.ca> or
email: admin@blackhistorysociety.ca or phone: 416-867-9420.**